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Letter from W. Pinckney Starke to unknown recipient, 1885 October 1

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Beech Island P.O.

1 Oct. 1885

My Dear Colonel

I missed seeing
Mr. James Edward Calhoun
after all. On arriving at Abbeville
I found McGowan absent at
Baltimore where he had taken
his daughter to put her to school.
Add to this the absence from
Abbeville of Teddy Calhoun
and the Session of Court which
occupied William McGowan's
time and you will perceive
how everything worked against
me. But what is departed is
not necessarily lost. Mr Calhoun
has evidently made up his
mind to remain here some
time yet. Of the unwelcome

subject of death ever occurs
to his mind he reminds it &
imagine into the next century
I hope yet to see him.
It has been raining here for
nearly a week. Every thing is
soaked and my room begins to
leak. The farmers had made
unusually large corn crops
in the bottom and they are
greatly alarmed about their
crops. Harry has had his wagon run-
ning in the rain and has got
out about six hundred bushels
I met the Rev. Mr Hay here
at the house on my arrival
and took him to Church twice
last Sunday. He is a fine old
gentleman. I saw a number
of my friends at Church. Harry
Harriman, wife and daughter
(Mrs Paul Harriman) and others

Everybody seems glad to see me
back. My friend Atkinson visited
me yesterday. He told me that
he had always had a strange
interest in you and recalled
that you used to come down
about Edgefield many years
ago when he practiced law
there; that you used to be
a good deal with the Pickens.
I hope you are getting on well
under the good care of my
friends Mrs Prince and Essie.
I spent a very pleasant time
during my last visit to Fort
Hill and hope to repeat it
before very long.

I am somewhat afraid of your
"boss" Gulsenburg: his propensity
for drink is dangerous. The
best adviser you have is Mrs
Prince. She has a great deal

of good sense and is your
best friend. I am very clear
about this. I hope ~~Deussenburg~~
will be of service - but he
will be watching.

I am busy writing but the weather
is so bad and spirits are kept
down. But the Sun will shine
out after a while & we get the
daily paper. They are filled with
crimes, war, pestilence, famine
floods, murders are heard of
all over the world, as you
so often say, What is to be the
end of it?

Tell Fessie to write me now and
then to let me know how you
are all doing. With kind
regards to her and her mother
I am my dear Colonel

Very sincerely
Wm D. Starke